

REMARKS

The present invention relates to a pressure sensitive adhesive composition.

In the Office Action of December 7, 2007, claims 1, 2, 4, and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,369,187 (Fujita et al). Claims 3, 5, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Fujita et al as applied to claims 1 and 2, further in view of U.S. Patent 4,463,115 (Hirose et al '115). There were no other rejections.

For reasons explained below, Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are not anticipated by Fujita et al. Furthermore, the deficiencies of Fujita et al are not overcome by the disclosure of the Hirose et al '155 reference, and hence, as can be seen from the discussion below, the presently claimed invention is novel and nonobvious in view of the cited prior art.

The pressure sensitive adhesive composition of the present invention comprises oxyalkylene polymer (A), tackifier resin (B) and curing catalyst (C).

Concerning component (A), the polymer contains a hydrolyzable silyl group, and is obtained by introducing 0.3 to 0.7 equivalent of a hydrolyzable silyl group relative to the total amount of the functional groups in a precursor which allow introduction of the hydrolyzable silyl group. The definition of "equivalent" is the amount of the hydrolyzable silyl groups relative to the total amount of the functional groups (page 7, lines 20 to 24 in the specification).

If the hydrolyzable silyl group content in each molecule of component (A) is lower than 0.3 equivalent, no satisfactory pressure sensitive adhesive composition can be obtained. If it is above 0.7 equivalent, the flexibility of the cured pressure sensitive adhesive is sacrificed and no good pressure sensitive adhesive properties can be obtained (page 7, lines 11 - 17 in the specification).

U.S. Patent 6,369,187 (Fujita et al) discloses an oxypropylene polymer having at least one reactive silicon group. The oxypropylene polymer is obtained by reacting an oxypropylene polymer having a terminal functional group Y with a compound having a reactive silicon group and an isocyanate group reactive with the functional group Y (column 3, lines 56 - 62).

In Example 1, 0.0447 equivalent (220 g) of polyoxypropylene trial (average molecular weight: 15,000) was reacted with 0.0447 equivalent (8.45 g) of γ -isocyanatopropyl-methyldimethoxysilane (molecular weight: 189.28). In this Example, "equivalent" respectively means the total amount of OH group of the oxypropylene polymer and the total amount of isocyanate group of the γ -isocyanatopropyl-methyldimethoxysilane. Therefore, according to the definition of "equivalent" of the present invention, 1 equivalent of hydrolyzable silyl group is introduced to the oxypropylene polymer. The content of hydrolyzable silyl group is not within the range (0.3 to 0.7 equivalent) specified in claim 1 of the present application.

In Comparative Example 1, 0.059 equivalent of dimethoxymethylsilane was reacted with 0.065 equivalent of polymer. In this case, similarly, 0.91 equivalent of hydrolyzable silyl group

is introduced to the oxypropylene polymer. The content of hydrolyzable silyl group is not within the range specified in claim 1 of the present application.

While Fujita et al teaches a preferable amount of reactive silicon groups per molecule of the oxypropylene polymer (column 3, lines 3 - 5), Fujita et al does not teach a preferable amount of Y group. Therefore, Fujita et al is silent concerning the ratio of the total amount of reactive silicon groups to the total amount of Y group of the oxypropylene polymer.

Furthermore, the oxypropylene polymer of Fujita et al is a curable polymer, and does not require flexibility. It would therefore appear that the content of reactive silicon groups is relatively high. Therefore, the range (0.3 to 0.7 equivalent) specified in claim 1 of the present application is not obvious from Fujita et al.

As discussed above, Fujita et al does not teach, suggest, motivate, or provide other reason that would lead a person having ordinary skill in the art to the present claimed invention. The presently claimed invention is neither anticipated by nor obvious over Fujita et al.

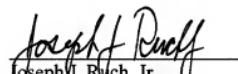
U.S. Patent 4,463,115 (Hirose et al) discloses a pressure sensitive adhesive composition, but does not remedy the deficiencies of Fujita et al. Therefore even if Fujita et al is combined with Hirose et al, the presently claimed invention is not rendered obvious.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby earnestly solicited.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

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